

Share the Good News in Prison!

by Pastor Rick

On October 30, Dr. Karen Swanson traveled to Newton to lead an evangelism seminar at the prison chapel. Karen wrote *Answering the Call*, the student workbook we used for the seminar. The seminar hit a home run with 26 men attending the four-hour session. Those in attendance had the opportunity to earn a handsome certificate by completing a Bible study, writing their Transforming Story, and drawing a Spiritual Lifemap.

Karen Swanson observes, "I was very impressed with the level of engagement and participation by the inmate students who attended the seminar, to see the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and their interest in making Christ known to others."

New Life volunteer Darin Graber adds, "The seminar was awesome! The instructor provided great insight as to how and why we should feel comfortable sharing our faith with others. Very impactful training."

Volunteer Glenda Vander Leest comments: "I was especially moved by the way some of the men drew the map of their life story. The visual made it so real and also portrayed where they want their lives to go from here."

Ken Van Zee, who also volunteered his time at the seminar, notes: "It was great to see the interaction between Karen and the other seminar participants. It was wonderful how you could see God's Spirit working among us."

Personally I'm hopeful that this evangelism seminar will encourage growth in the New Life Prison Community. Karen encouraged each man of God to provide a personal witness testimony, showing how Christ has transformed his life. By sharing his testimony, the inmate-member of New Life will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ while encouraging others to join the fellowship of believers behind bars.



Dr. Karen Swanson is the director of the Institute for Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.

Give Gifts to New Life

by Rose Admiraal

Jesus said,
"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Luke 4:18-19

It's been an awesome year for New Life! We've been able to worship monthly with an average of sixty men. Twenty men were baptized this year at New Life, and five men professed their faith. Praise God! With over 800 men incarcerated at Newton, the need is great. We need your help to continue this important work. Please consider giving a year-end donation to support New Life Prison Community.

You're Invited to Our Open House!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 10, 2013.

This will be a day to celebrate

New Life Prison Community's Second Anniversary

at the Youth House of Calvary CRC in Pella

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!



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www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Please support New Life with your prayers and financial gifts.
Send your donations to: **New Life, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

Gift Amount _____ Name _____

Address _____



Spotlight ~ Rev. Mark Porter

God Sets Prisoners Free

Rev. Mark Porter came to the New Life Worship service on October 18. Mark is the pastor of the Friends Church in Lynnville, Iowa. On that Thursday night worship service, Lynnville Friends was well-represented: 21 visitors provided music and fellowship.



Rev. Mark and Lindsey Porter

Tell us about yourself and your family.

I am married to Lindsey. We have two boys: Julian, age 7, and Waylen, 8 months. We live in Lynnville, Iowa. We enjoy fishing, playing games, rodeos, and God.

How have things changed dramatically for you in the last few years?

After being released from prison on March 30, 2010, I have experienced blessing after blessing as I have followed hard after the Lord. I graduated from Crown College with a B.S. in Christian Ministries; I've been licensed as a Pastor in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Denomination, working toward ordination. Waylen was born. I became Pastor of Lynnville Friends Church in October.

Why do you feel inspired to help men in prison?

I want to give back where I was so touched while I served in prison. I believe the Lord blesses us to be a blessing, and coming to visit and spur on the men in prison is something the Lord laid on my heart even before I left

prison. God's Word says, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them" (Hebrews 13:3, NKJV). This is something I take to heart.

Describe how it felt for you to return to prison in a totally different capacity.

As the men came into the gym, I really still saw myself as one of them. I think I will always have a special bond. I hoped to give them a message of hope, showing them that the promises of God are true. When the Word says, "He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him," we need only say "yes" and "amen"!

What positives do you see at New Life?

I really felt the love of Christ coming from Pastor Rick and Rose, and all the New Life volunteers. The men had many good things to say about the ministry. I love that life is being brought and taught at Newton Prison. It's eternal life in Jesus Christ.

From your perspective, why is it so crucial for New Life and other ministries to reach out to men in prison?

It is crucial to continue to reach men behind the walls because the Lord is very active and alive there. The Holy Spirit cannot be contained. He is hard at work in Newton Prison and the other prisons in Iowa and throughout the United States. The harvest is indeed plentiful, and the workers must continue to reap for the Lord.

To read the complete interview, visit www.newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com.

Give Thanks for Changed Lives!

by Pastor Rick

Over the Thanksgiving holiday many of us listed reasons to give thanks to God. We could probably list 10,000 reasons to thank the Lord, but let's focus on just one: changed lives. Recently New Life hosted a Thanksgiving worship service

It was a great day of celebration.

in the prison gym. At that worship service, I had the privilege of baptizing four men. It was a great day of celebration. The angels in Heaven were rejoicing, and so were we! The men were given an opportunity to share their testimony with the prison congregation. Three of the four testified by their words, including Bob who shared a full page of written testimony. The fourth man, Robert, didn't say much, but his face was a testimony of faith. He had a great big smile stretching from ear to ear. As the waters of baptism dripped down, his face was completely full of JOY! The praise team dedicated the song "Beautiful Things" to the baptized men. Its lyrics reminded us that God makes beautiful things out of us.

I'm grateful to God for the opportunity to minister in prison. While inmates can't wait to get out, I can't wait to get in. It's a great place to reach out to hurting people who need Jesus Christ. I'm thankful that prison officials continue to allow New Life to enter the prison on a regular basis. While I'm overflowing with thanksgiving for the wonders of 2012, I can't wait to see what God will do next!